(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto in the context of its adding to the process of militarisation and nuclearisation of the Indian Ocean thereby escalating the super power rivarly in the Indian Ocean?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) Government have seen reports in this regard.

(b) Government of India are opposed to the military presence in the Indian Ocean region of any non-littoral State.

Central Committee's visit to study inter-state migrant labour problem

*95. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD.

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a six-member Central Committee visited Orissa and other States to inquire about the migrant labour so as to deal with the problem of seasonal inter-State migration of labour force;

(b) if so, what are the details of the visits undertaken by the Committee; and

(c) what are the findings of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Four members of Sub-Committee of the Consultative Committee of Parliament of Ministry of Labour on Unorganised labour in Non-Agricultural Sector, visited Orissa from 29th January to 31st January, 1987.

(b) The Sub-committee visited Bhubaneshwar, Peepli Puri and Barang.

(c) Said Sub-committee is yet to submit a report.

Decline in Tourist Traffic from Latin American and European Countries

*96. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a decline in tourist traffic to India from Latin American and European countries;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that publicity for promotion of tourism is inadequate in these countries due to shortage of personnel;

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) what fresh steps Government have taken to attract more tourists from these countries?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED): (a) to (e) Foreign tourist arrivals to India from Europe and Latin America during the last two years are as given below:

	1985	1986 (Provisional)	%change 1985/86
Europe (Excluding USSR)	319,980	428,465	33.9
Latin America	8,016	5,034	—37.2
TOTAL	327,996	433,499	32.2

The overseas publicity campaign of the Government for increasing the inflow of foreign tourist traffic to the country has been stepped-up substantially during the recent past in all the major tourist markets abroad. The location and staff strength of various

overseas offices of the Department is also being reviewed from time to time to make them more cost effective in their functions. It is not correct to say that publicity in Europe is inadequate. As regards Latin America this is not a major market for us on account of the long distance. We do not have any office in Latin America. Limited publicity is carried out through the Department's offices in New York and Los Angeles.

The steps taken by the Government in the recent past to attract more tourists from these countries include introduction of direct consumer advertising in the overseas media, use of electronic media like Radio, Television, Video Casettes, etc. in publicity campaigns, organising promotional seminars and 'India Evenings' at high decision making levels, projecting India as an all weather holiday destination, promoting special interest tourism like conferences and conventions, adventure tourism, beach tourism etc., launching of promotional schemes like 'Affordable India' and 'India on the House' and allowing of charter flights to India.

Cases of cheating, etc. at ISBT, Delhi

*97. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the alarming increase in the number of cases of cheating, drugging of passengers and depriving them of their belongings at the Inter-State Bus Terminal in Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the thieves and touts are working in collusion with police and other authorities;

(c) what is the number of such anti-social elements arrested so far during 1986-87 and what action has been taken against them; and

(d) what measures Government propose to take for the safety of passengers and their belongings?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Crime Statistics for this area during the last 3 years do not indicate an 'alarming increase' in such cases.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) 21 persons have been arrested in 12 cases during the period 1.1.86 to 15-2-87. Challans against 10 have been filed in the court.

(d) Round-the-clock watch is maintained at the ISBT for suspicious looking persons. Announcement are made on the loudspeakers requesting the people to be beware of cheats. Police patrolling has been intensified in the area.

Wet wood scandal at the Nigambodh Ghat

*98. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH:

SHRI J. P. GOYAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a scandal at the Delhi's main cremation ground Nigambodh Ghat where wet wood for funeral pyres containing moisture much above the permissible level is sold; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to check such activities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The report has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) A Show Cause Notice for rescinding of contract apart from other steps by the Corporation was given to the defaulting Contractor who has obtained a Stay Order from the Court restraining the Department from rescinding the contract. The Corpora-